



TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE AND IT MUST FOLLOW AS THE NIGHT THE DAY, THOU CANST NOT THEN BE FALSE TO ANY MAN.

BY JAYNES, SHELOR, SMITH & STECK.

WALLHALLA, SOUTH CAROLINA, APRIL 21, 1898.

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Oconee and Her People.

The Town of Wallhalla--Settled by the Germans--Steady Growth and Solid Development--An Important Business Center. The Men Who Do Its Business.

The Founding of Wallhalla.

The town of Wallhalla was founded nearly fifty years ago. On December 24th, 1849, Rev. Joseph Grisham, who resided in our sister town of West Union, sold to C. F. Seebal, John A. Wagener, Claus Bulwinkle, T. E. Henckle and Jacob Schroder, as Trustees of the German Colonization Society, of Charleston, S. C., 17,859 acres of land, situate in the western portion of Pickens District. The price paid was \$27,000. The town of Wallhalla was located by the officers of the Colonization Society near the western boundary of their purchase. The first house within the corporate limits was built by the late Deidrich Biemann in the year 1851. It was an old-fashioned log cabin and occupied the site of the large two-story frame building, which was afterward known for many years as Biemann's Hotel. It was not long until the arrival of other pioneer settlers from the Fatherland, and this soon became a distinctive German colony. Other houses of primitive design were erected, principally along Main street. In the course of time more substantial houses were built, and, by reason of the natural contour, the town developed along the gently undulating ridge, from east to west. Thus early did Wallhalla become known as the "Shoe-string Town" because of the unusual length of its one street. This, however, cannot be said of it any longer, for it has steadily grown until its width and length are about equal. The business houses, though, are located on Main street, which is known far and near as one of the most beautiful streets that any city or town can boast of.

There was a steady influx of German immigrants, who, by habits of industry and economy, soon became a prosperous and contented people. The site selected by them for building the town lies six miles south of Stump-house Mountain, a spur of the great Blue Ridge range. The town was not established with an idea of being the County seat; but when Pickens District was divided, in 1868, into Oconee and Pickens Counties, Wallhalla was selected as the capital of Oconee County. It has been ascertained by actual survey to be within at least two miles of the geographical center of the county.

The word "Wallhalla" is borrowed from Scandinavian mythology and signifies "Paradise of the Gods," or a place of rest and refreshment. We think the town is appropriately named, and that the name expresses only what Wallhalla really is—an ideal place of sweet rest. No town in all our Southland enjoys a more delightful, refreshing and health-inspiring climate the year around.

The town, originally settled by the Germans, remained almost exclusively a German community for fifteen years. As early as 1864 there was a gradual influx of American citizens. The two nationalities were on the best of terms from the first, and it was not until they were about equal in number that the addition of native Americans was agreeable to the Germans, who learned to cherish their relations with their new neighbors. This mixing and intermingling of American and German citizens gradually resulted in American habits and customs of the people. In a short time, the difference of nationality was known principally in name. Nearly all of the original settlers have passed away, and their wholesome influence remains. Their descendants may speak another language, but they still maintain habits of industry and economy which in the end will make any people prosperous and happy.

Wallhalla's population is now about a thousand five hundred. She numbers many progressive citizens among her inhabitants, who, year after year, increase her business, inaugurate new enterprises and achieve success.

The Old Blue Ridge Tunnel. Along in the fifties the Blue Ridge Road Company attempted to cut a tunnel through Stump-house Mountain. The project was abandoned, breaking out of the civil war in 1861, but not until excavated for a mile had been through solid rock. From

the mouth of this huge tunnel issues a stream of limpid water, clear as crystal. As the water ripples down the mountain-side other streams unite with it, and about a mile from the tunnel it plunges over a rocky precipice, falling one hundred feet. This is the beautiful Issaquena Falls, famed in song and story. The altitude of Issaquena Falls is six hundred feet above that of Wallhalla. This water could be utilized at comparatively small cost, as the natural source of supply is so far above the level of the town. A plan is in contemplation for bringing the water to Wallhalla for both domestic and manufacturing purposes. It is estimated by competent engineers that the supply is sufficient to furnish all the water required for public and private use, with a surplus of one hundred horse-power, which could be used for generating electricity. It is believed that the near future will witness the utilization of this natural source, which constitutes one of our peculiar advantages. The construction of electric lights and water-works constitutes probably the next business enterprise to be undertaken by our citizens. Their completion will mark a new epoch in the history of the town.

Her Churches and Schools. The religious denominations are well represented in Wallhalla. There are five Protestant denominations, which own substantial church buildings. The churches, with their pastors, are as follows: Lutheran, Rev. J. G. Schmid; Methodist, Rev. J. L. Daniel; Presbyterian, Rev. R. L. Rogers; Baptist, Rev. H. B. Pant; Episcopal, Rev. J. D. McCullough.

The educational facilities of Wallhalla are excellent. There are three schools. Miss Kate Steck, principal of the Wallhalla Select School, is a competent teacher. She is a graduate of Hagerstown Seminary, of the class of 1886. She has been engaged in teaching ever since, and has taught here for the past six years. Her work in the school-room is excellent.

Miss Ida McCullough is principal of a well-regulated school for girls and small boys. She is a lady of fine culture and a teacher of large experience. She is an accomplished musician and instructor of music.

Prof. J. M. Moss is principal of a school for boys. He is a graduate of Wofford College, of the class of 1891. Since graduation he has given himself to teaching. He has taught successfully here and elsewhere. This is his third term in Wallhalla, and he conducts a large school, giving satisfaction to his patrons. With these three schools the educational advantages afforded the town and surrounding community are equal to those enjoyed by any town of similar size in the State.

Her Hotels. There are two hotels, conducted by W. H. Hester and H. D. A. Biemann respectively. Mr. Hester is manager of the house formerly known as Biemann's Hotel, on Main street. Mr. Hester came to Wallhalla on September 1, 1897, and leased from Mr. J. D. Verner the large building on Main street, known since the early days of the town as Biemann's Hotel. He changed the name to Wallhalla Hotel, by which it is now famed far and near as a popular resort. He means to serve the public the approaching season in the very best style, and will spare neither time nor pains to please his guests. He is a native of Oconee, having been born near Retreat, but when a small boy his father, Abraham Hester, moved to Pickens County. He resided there until October, 1896, when he moved to Westminster and assumed charge of a hotel there. Mrs. Hester still retains control of that house, and Mr. Hester gives his personal supervision to the Wallhalla Hotel. He is a genial gentleman and has made many friends since he located here.

Mr. H. D. A. Biemann conducts the Biemann House, on Faculty Hill. Both hotels are within easy reach of the depot, and the proprietors spare no pains in caring for the comfort of their guests. The traveling public find excellent entertainment here.

Livery and Feed Stables. There are two livery stables. Mr. T. E. Alexander has recently built new stables on Spring street, where he keeps a thorough equipment of horses and vehicles for the livery

business. He was a successful merchant for several years, but recently sold his stock of merchandise to Messrs. W. J. Schroder & Co., who continue in business at the old stand. Mr. Alexander has a number of new and fancy vehicles and several horses of fine speed. He is prepared at all times to accommodate the traveling public, and can supply all demands made upon him, either day or night.

Mr. W. T. Potts is the successor of Holleman & Son in the livery business. He is an enterprising citizen of Highlands, N. C. His energy and enterprise induced him to identify himself largely with Wallhalla. Accordingly he purchased the livery business of Holleman & Son in the fall of 1897. He keeps pace with the very best in serving the public.

The well-known firm of Holleman & Son was engaged in the livery business for several years. Since the sale of this branch of their business they have carried a full line of vehicles, harness, saddles, etc. Mr. J. W. Holleman, senior member of the firm, is well known to the people of the County and State. He served the people of Oconee as County Treasurer for many years. He is the present Master of the Court of Common Pleas, and makes a careful and efficient officer. He has also served as Judge of Probate. He has twice been elected Mayor of the town of Wallhalla. Mr. F. S. Holleman is a young man of fine business qualifications. The business of the firm receives his personal attention. They do a splendid business and can sell you anything, from the finest carriage or phaeton down to a cheap bridle or harness.

A Splendid Cotton Mill.

The Wallhalla Cotton Mills is the largest and most important business enterprise within the corporate limits. In 1895 a joint stock company was formed by local subscribers. A charter was obtained from the Secretary of State with an authorized capital of \$75,000. The charter has since been amended, allowing an increase of the capital stock to \$150,000. The product of the mill is the finest quality of sheeting. Mr. J. D. Verner is president of the company, and has been ever since its organization. The board of directors is composed of J. D. Verner, C. W. Pitchford, S. P. Dendy, Wm. J. Stribling, J. W. Holleman, A. P. Crisp, D. Oelkers and W. A. Strother. The capacity of the mill will probably be doubled in the near future. This can be done with very little cost additional to the purchase of machinery. In the present mill buildings, there is considerable unoccupied floor space, which can be utilized for placing new machinery.

Her Banking Facilities.

Wallhalla is supplied with splendid banking facilities. Mr. J. D. Verner, banker, has been a resident of Wallhalla ever since the fall of 1870. He was first engaged in the mercantile business with Mr. J. Caleb Carter. He then engaged in merchandising with Mr. W. J. Stribling, now of Westminster. The Wallhalla Bank was organized and chartered March 17, 1875. The late Samuel Lovinggood, father-in-law of Mr. Verner, was elected president, J. J. Norton, vice-president, and W. C. Ervin, cashier. The board of directors were Samuel Lovinggood, J. J. Norton, R. A. Thompson, J. W. Stribling, J. P. Mickler, D. Biemann and John W. Shelor. This bank did business for three years and closed April 18, 1878. The stockholders dissolved the corporation on account of the usury laws reducing the rate of interest. It was succeeded by Lovinggood & Ervin, who continued the business as a partnership until dissolved by the death of Mr. Lovinggood, on November 11, 1879. The firm then became Ervin & Verner, and continued until January 1, 1884, when Mr. W. C. Ervin sold his interest in the business to Mr. J. D. Verner. Since that time, Mr. Verner has owned and conducted the bank individually. No bank in the State enjoys a better credit or serves its customers and the business public more satisfactorily. Although doing business in his own name, and without a charter, he has always enjoyed a splendid credit, and his financial standing in banking circles is of the very highest order. Mr. Verner is the largest individual

taxpayer in Oconee County, and he is one among the leaders of enterprise in our midst. For the past three years he has given his time and attention to the discharge of the responsible duties of President of Wallhalla Cotton Mills without asking or receiving a cent of salary. To him more than any other man is due the success of the mill. Under his wise administration the mill is sure to prove a successful enterprise. Already the town has been largely benefited by its establishment, and greater good will accrue therefrom in the future. Mr. Verner is public spirited and enterprising and always lends his support to whatever is deemed best for his town and county. He has done much for the up-building of Wallhalla. He is assisted in the bank by Mr. W. L. Verner as cashier.

Merchants and Druggists.

The mercantile brigade of Wallhalla consists of the C. W. Pitchford Company, the Carter Merchandise Company, C. W. Bauknight, C. M. Nield, W. J. Schroder & Co., G. A. Norman, Holleman & Son, M. W. Wright, Mrs. E. M. Cudworth, Dr. D. B. Darby, Dr. J. W. Bell, D. Oelkers, W. O. White, Wilmot Smith, J. E. Hendrix, W. H. Reeder, Abram Naggare, Smith Brothers, J. J. Ansel, A. Fischesser, H. C. Busch and J. T. Wilson. Prosperous and progressive merchants can always be known by the advertisements of their business methods. We make brief mention of those who believe in the liberal use of printer's ink. Their success demonstrates the correctness of their business methods. This will be recognized from the mere mention of their names.

Ten years ago Mr. C. W. Pitchford entered into the mercantile business on his own account with a limited capital. He had served an apprenticeship of many years in the store of the late J. P. Mickler, having clerked for him from early boyhood. After leaving the employ of Mr. Mickler he established a business of his own, to which he gave his undivided attention, observing strict business principles. His trade grew steadily from the first. His stock was constantly increasing and his success soon became an assured fact. His customers have always been satisfied with his dealings, which are acknowledged to be honest and upright. His business increased in volume and popularity, and within a few years he occupied a most enviable position in his town and county. Fifteen months ago Messrs. S. N. Pitchford, W. D. Moss and G. A. Norman, who had clerked for him, became members of the firm. A joint stock company was organized, with a capital of \$10,000 for mercantile purposes, and a charter obtained under the name of the C. W. Pitchford Company. They carry a large and varied stock of dry goods, notions, shoes, groceries, hardware, agricultural implements, and, in short, everything that can be expected of a first-class store of general merchandise. They are all actively engaged in the business, and are assisted by Mr. Mack Neville as salesman. The annual volume of their business ranges from \$45,000 to \$50,000. It is continually increasing, and they have recently decided to build a large and handsome brick store. The old building has been torn down and the work of excavating is now going on, for laying the foundation of a large two-story building. When completed, it will be one of the handsomest stores to be found in the up-country.

The Carter Merchandise Company is also a corporation, having been organized and chartered in 1895 with a capital of \$25,000. It has two branch business houses, one in Westminster and one in Wallhalla. The business at Wallhalla is under the excellent management and supervision of Mr. H. I. Weaver. Mr. Weaver is a native of Georgia, having been reared at Young Harris. When only a small boy, he came to Westminster and began to clerk in the store of T. N. Carter & Co., predecessors of the Carter Merchandise Company. Having spent several years as clerk in the store, he went to Lexington, Ky., where he took a complete course in a business college. He then returned to Westminster and accepted the position of book-keeper for his former employers. He remained there until January 1st, 1896, when he removed to Wallhalla, and assumed control of the business here. He is a most competent merchant, keeps fully abreast with the times, and knows how to buy and sell so as to give his customers the worth of their money. He is ably assisted in the conduct of the business by Messrs. William J.

Neville, Jr., C. G. Jaynes and E. P. Hutchison as salesmen, and Miss Gessie Holleman as book-keeper. He does a large business, ranging annually from \$45,000 to \$50,000.

Mr. C. M. Nield is another wide-awake merchant. He is a native of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England. He came to America in 1871. He resided in Florida until 1884, when he cast his lot with the people of Wallhalla. In 1885 he formed a partnership with Mr. F. E. Harrison, under the name of Nield & Harrison, and did a successful business for eight years. He then sold his interest to Mr. Harrison and opened Nield's Hotel. For five years he kept a most popular house, but went out of the business the first of this year. He recently bought the mercantile business of Mr. K. O. Wright and now carries a varied stock of general merchandise. He receives a handsome share of the public patronage and is assisted by Miss Fannie Maxwell as an accommodating clerk. The people of Wallhalla always extend a cordial welcome to men of such sterling worth as Mr. Nield. He has become thoroughly identified with our people, and is one of us in every sense of the word.

Mr. C. W. Bauknight is one of Wallhalla's most successful young merchants. He is a son of the late J. S. Bauknight and inherits a large part of his father's business tact. He completed his education at Oxford, Ga. Seven years ago, when only eighteen years of age, he began business on his own account with a small capital. By close attention and indomitable perseverance he long since achieved success, and ranks along the side of our very best business men. Last year he erected one of the handsomest brick stores in the county, which is filled by a large stock of first-class goods. His example has inspired others to follow suit. In the near future we shall doubtless have a solid block of brick stores. Mr. Bauknight is a progressive merchant and deserves much at the hands of the public. He is ably assisted by his brother, Mr. John E. Bauknight, as salesman.

Mr. M. W. Wright, another of Wallhalla's young merchants, is a native of Pickens County. When quite a young man he went to Piedmont, S. C., and entered the employ of J. B. Marshall & Co., as clerk. He remained there for six years and afterwards came to Wallhalla. In 1896 he formed a partnership with his brother, Mr. K. O. Wright, and for one year they did a general merchandise business as K. O. Wright & Bro. The firm was dissolved last year and he began business on his own account. He conducts a strictly cash store and does a good business. His customers get value received for their money. His brother, Mr. K. O. Wright, has been a substantial merchant here for several years. He is now completing a handsome new store and contemplates opening a new stock of goods in the near future.

Mr. W. J. Schroder is one of the youngest merchants of our town, but he does a good business. He attained his majority only a few months ago, but he had spent several years as clerk in the store of Mr. T. E. Alexander. He recently bought the business of Mr. Alexander, and is now conducting it under the firm name of W. J. Schroder & Co. He is a young man of fine business qualifications, exemplary habits and great industry. We predict for him a successful career.

Mr. G. A. Norman holds forth at the old Norman stand. He carries a varied stock of house-furnishing goods, to which is added a large supply of seeds, and incidentally a line of drugs. He is a son of the late Dr. A. K. Norman and inherits a full share of his father's ability and perseverance. He is a pleasant gentleman with whom to deal. He enjoys the confidence and patronage of many customers.

The millinery emporium of Wallhalla is conducted by Mrs. E. M. Cudworth. In 1897 she purchased the business from Mrs. J. M. Merriek. She carries a full assortment of choice goods, and her store is a popular resort for the gentler sex. She is assisted by Misses Rosa Norman and Julia Keels Maxwell.

Mr. H. C. Busch has been in business for eight years. He is a native of Oconee. When twenty-one years old he went to Charleston, and spent five years in the employ of Wm. Mappus Co. as salesman. He then went to Columbia and was with Habenicht two years. In 1894 he returned to this place, and began business. He opened a store of staple and fancy groceries, fruits, notions, etc., in connection with his bakery.

He has also made money buying and selling poultry and eggs. He is a young man of great energy, who gives close attention to business.

Mr. W. H. Reeder first engaged in the mercantile business here in 1894. He was senior member of the firm of Reeder & Wright, the junior member being Mr. K. O. Wright. The partnership lasted for six months and was dissolved by consent. Mr. Reeder then engaged in business on his own account, and has met with remarkable success. He invested only a small amount of money, but has made a living, and quadrupled his stock in value. He deals in groceries, notions and general merchandise. He is a native of Oconee, having been born and reared in the South Union neighborhood. His father, the late James Reeder, removed to High Falls and Mr. Reeder came here from there. He is a solid business man and is here to stay.

To show that the town presents attractions to foreigners, we cite the name of Mr. Abram Naggare, the Syrian. He came to America from Syria in 1893. He located here two years ago, and opened a store of fancy groceries, fruits, notions, jewelry, &c. He is making money, and has become a resident. His brother, Mr. Philip Naggare, joined him two months ago. He came from Brazil, South America, and will remain in business with his elder brother. Our people extend a cordial welcome to them.

Mr. James T. Wilson has recently opened a new grocery store. He came from Charleston in 1878. He first bought the Cappelmann mill property and resided there for two years. He then purchased a tract of land near town and planted a large vineyard. He built a handsome residence, and spent several years in the grape and wine industry. He owns valuable property in Charleston, and is a man of easy means. He carries a new stock of fancy groceries, notions, etc., and will do a good business.

Mr. D. Oelkers is our German merchant. He does a large business and sells alike to everybody. He came to America from Germany in 1870. After spending eight years in New York and Charleston he came to Wallhalla in 1878. He was not long in deciding to make his home here. Accordingly, he married and settled down to business. He has been uniformly successful and has amassed considerable property. He carries a full stock of groceries and general merchandise.

The firm of Smith Brothers does a general merchandise business. Messrs. J. I. and G. Q. Smith, under firm name of Smith Brothers, began business here in May, 1890, on a small capital. They have gone steadily forward until they carry a complete stock. Last year they built a handsome new store, and now occupy their own quarters. Staple and fancy groceries and a varied stock of general merchandise fill their counters and shelves. Mr. J. I. Smith gives his personal attention to the business. He is assisted by Mr. J. C. Langston as salesman.

Mr. W. Oldridge White began business March 15th, 1898. He is well known to the people. For eight years he was assistant postmaster, serving without interruption under every change of administration. He ran the office for four Republicans and one Democrat, and always gave the public the very best service. He carries a stock of family groceries, notions, etc. Later he will add to his stock, and do a general merchandise business. He is one of our most deserving young men. By close application, industry and economy he is getting a good start, and is bound to succeed.

Mr. Wilmot Smith is a native of Laurens, S. C. He is a son of Dr. J. R. Smith, of Laurens, and coming here on a visit to his brother-in-law, Rev. J. L. Daniel, last December, he was not long in being impressed with our town as a business center. He determined to locate, and opened his store on February 1st, 1898. He carries a stock of staple and fancy groceries, crockery, tin and glassware and stationery. This is his first venture in the mercantile world, but he is well pleased with his success thus far. He bids fair to build up an important and lucrative business. As the latest recruit from without to our mercantile brigade, he receives a cordial welcome.

Mr. J. J. Ansel is Wallhalla's furniture dealer and undertaker. He came here with his father, the late John Ansel, in 1854. His father landed in America in 1844, and married Miss Frederika Bauer, of Philadelphia. He spent ten years in Charleston, before locating perma-

nently in Wallhalla. Mr. John Ansel reared a large family of children, one son being the subject of this sketch, another Hon. M. F. Ansel, of Greenville, S. C., the popular Solicitor of the Eighth Judicial Circuit. He had much to do with building up the town. He manufactured furniture and collins and did a successful business for many years. He designed and made the office furniture for the Court House. The first term of Court for Oconee county was held in a large hall owned by him, on Main street, in 1869, Judge James L. Orr presiding. In 1874 Mr. J. J. Ansel built a furniture factory on South Broad street and manufactured household furniture and collins. He afterwards engaged regularly in the undertaking and furniture business. In the performance of the last rites for burial of the dead Mr. Ansel has long ministered to the wants of the town and community. His considerate dealings have greatly endeared him to the hearts of our people, and, in the hour of bereavement, it has long been the custom to apply for needed help to John J. Ansel.

Messrs. J. C. Neville, Jr., J. N. Rutherford, C. A. Burton, W. H. Barron, and J. T. Ashworth do a commission business in the sale of fertilizers, cotton seed meal, &c.

Dr. D. B. Darby is a practicing physician and a druggist. He took his medical course in the South Carolina University, graduating in 1873. He moved to Wallhalla in August, 1874, and located for the practice of his profession. After a successful practice of several years he established a drug business in 1881, which he has conducted successfully ever since. He carries a full assortment of drugs and medicines, as well as notions, silver and plate ware. In his store is to be found one of the largest and handsomest soda fountains in the State. He is ably assisted in the business by his son, Mr. James H. Darby.

Dr. J. W. Bell, also, is a medical practitioner and a druggist. He graduated from Bellevue Hospital College, New York, in 1892, with distinction. He located in Wallhalla for the practice of medicine in 1893. He established a drug business two years ago, and in this is assisted by Mr. W. G. Stribling. He enjoys the confidence of the public, both as a physician and druggist. He is fast building up a lucrative business. He has in his store a handsome soda fountain, and he serves in the most approved style all kinds of cold drinks.

Dental Surgeons.

Wallhalla has two competent dentists—Dr. T. G. C. Fahnstock and Dr. G. C. Probst.

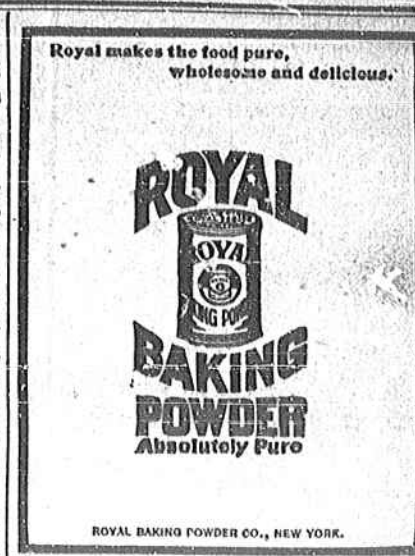
Dr. Fahnstock came to Wallhalla from Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1875. He made the change of residence for the benefit of his health, and has never had cause to rue it. Before leaving his Northern home, he was advised by some of his friends that he was undertaking a hazardous journey in coming to the "Sunny South." It was gently hinted that the "Average Southerner" was an individual who devoted the greater part of his time to "fire eating" and prowling about seeking whom he might devour. He was not deterred by such friendly advice, for he came here in 1875, "saw and was conquered." In 1876 he bought a farm, "Woodlawn," near town, which he has greatly improved and still owns. His health has long since been fully restored, and he has been engaged in the active practice of his profession all these years. He continues to have an abundance, both of health and wealth. He has recently built a handsome and commodious dental office on his lot on Faculty Hill, which is quite an ornament to the town. He remains here, he says, because he likes the country, the climate, the people, and he believes there is more outcome here than in any section which he knows.

Dr. G. C. Probst came here from Milledgeville, Ga., last December, and located for the practice of dentistry. He graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, Md., in 1892, after taking a three years dental course. He has practiced continuously ever since, and is thoroughly up in his profession. He has purchased a house and lot on Faculty Hill and has become a permanent resident. He is fast establishing himself in a lucrative practice.

The Legal Fraternity.

Col. R. A. Thompson and Major S. P. Dendy are the senior members of the Wallhalla bar. They entered the practice here in 1871.

Col. R. A. Thompson was Commissioner in Equity for Pickens District



ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

for fifteen years prior to 1868. While performing the duties of Commissioner he gave his spare time to the study of law. He was a most efficient officer, and held his commission until the office was abolished upon the division of Pickens District into Pickens and Oconee counties. Soon after his admission to the bar, he formed a partnership with the late Samuel McGowan. The partnership continued until 1879, when Gen. McGowan was elected Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. In 1880, Col. Thompson formed a partnership with Wells & Orr, under the firm name of Wells, Orr & Thompson. In 1884 R. T. Jaynes, Esq., became a member of the firm. The new firm did a successful law practice until 1891, when it was dissolved by Col. Orr's retiring from the practice to engage in other business. Col. Thompson then formed a partnership with J. H. Earle and J. A. Mooney, under the firm name of Earle, Mooney & Thompson. This firm was dissolved in 1895 by the election of Gen. Earle as Circuit Judge, and Col. Thompson has practiced alone since that time. Of his record as a newspaper man we need not speak. He has been proprietor and editor of the Keowee Courier for forty-five years. On April 1st, 1898, he sold his interest in the paper to J. W. Shelor, Esq. Col. Thompson is a genial gentleman, has an extensive knowledge of the law, and enjoys the confidence of a respectable clientele. As a counselor he has always been found safe, conservative and reliable. Both by inclination and training he is a civil lawyer, preferring to devote his attention to the principles of equity jurisprudence.

J. A. H. Gibson, Esq., was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court in January, 1880. He held the office of Trial Justice several years prior thereto and gave his spare time to the reading of law. His strong common sense and good judgment have always rendered him a safe counselor. He has devoted himself to the practice ever since. He is serving his third term as Mayor, and makes a most capable officer.

The firm of Stribling & Herndon was formed on January 3d, 1898, the partners being Major Wm. J. Stribling and E. L. Herndon, Esq.

Major Stribling was a student of Newberry College, from which he graduated in 1876, after spending three years in taking his course. He then entered the law office of the late Judge J. J. Norton and gave himself to the study of law for two years. He was called to the bar in 1879. His first partnership was with the late Judge J. S. Cotheran. After two years the firm was dissolved and he formed a partnership with Col. Norton. This firm enjoyed a lucrative business and continued until the elevation of Col. Norton to the Bench in 1886. A partnership was then formed between Maj. Stribling and E. L. Herndon, Esq., which lasted for two years. In 1890, the firm of Stribling & Shelor was established, and did a successful business for six years. In 1896, a partnership was formed between Judge Norton and Maj. Stribling under the firm name of Norton & Stribling. This partnership continued until the death of Judge Norton in June, 1896. Since that time Maj. Stribling has practiced alone until the formation of the recent partnership with Mr. Herndon. Maj. Stribling represented Oconee County in the House of Representatives during the session of 1883 and 1884, and was also a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1895. He is an all-round lawyer of fine ability. He knows how to handle both law and facts so as to make a strong presentation of a case to Court and jury.

E. L. Herndon, Esq., is to the "manor born" and is another son of whom Oconee may be proud. His early training was obtained in the

CONCLUDED ON FOURTH PAGE.